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The Sun

AND NEW YORK PRESS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1916.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month, \$3.00
DAILY, Per Year, \$35.00
SUNDAY, Per Month, \$1.00
SUNDAY, Per Year, \$12.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month, \$4.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year, \$48.00

FOREIGN RATES.

DAILY, Per Month, \$1.50
DAILY, Per Year, \$18.00
SUNDAY, Per Month, \$1.00
SUNDAY, Per Year, \$12.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month, \$2.50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year, \$30.00

All checks, money orders, etc., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 10 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President, Frank A. Munsey, 120 Nassau street, New York. Vice President, William H. Ladd, 120 Nassau street, New York. Secretary, R. H. Thompson, 120 Nassau street, New York. Treasurer, Wm. T. DeWitt, 120 Nassau street, New York.

London office, 40-42 Fleet street.
Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodiere, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.
Washington office, Room 202, Eagle Building, 305 Washington street.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and contributions for publication will send them to the editorial office, they will be sure to receive prompt attention.

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Much interest exists among the members of the bar throughout the State as to the selections likely to be made for these positions. The Court of Appeals as at present constituted consists of ten Judges, seven of whom may be regarded as the permanent court, being elected as Judges thereof for terms of fourteen years each, unless their terms are shortened by the constitutional age limit of seventy years. The three other members of the court are Supreme Court Justices designated by the Governor. Although there are ten members of the court, the Constitution provides that no more than seven Judges shall sit in any case. In practice the Chief Justice sits continuously, but there is a system of rotation among his associates which expedites the work of the court by enabling several of the Judges to prepare opinions when not sitting.

Although the volume of litigation from the First Judicial district (New York county and The Bronx) far exceeds that from any other portion of the State, it so happens that this district is now represented in the Court of Appeals by only one Judge, namely, Justice BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO of the Supreme Court. It is generally assumed, therefore, that Governor WHITMAN will appoint a lawyer from the First district to succeed Judge SEABURY. Syracuse is not unlikely to make a claim to the position of Associate Judge when Judge HISCOCK of that city becomes Chief Judge; but in view of the fact that Associate Judge HOGAN of the Court of Appeals is also a Syracusean it may be thought, with reason, that other localities are entitled to a preference.

In the case of Judge FORD of course his successor as Justice of the Supreme Court will have to be taken from one of the counties in the Eighth Judicial district. Judge FORD resides at Lockport, Niagara county.

Although geographical considerations should never be deemed controlling in making up the personnel of the highest court, they are entitled to weight, other things being equal. For many years Brooklyn has enjoyed the privilege of having a representative in the Court of Appeals. This is not only an honor to the borough but a great convenience to the members of the bar who have to make applications for leave to appeal and certificates of reasonable doubt. After the retirement of Chief Judge BARTLETT Brooklyn will be left unrepresented in the court of last resort unless the Governor designates a Supreme Court Justice from the Second district to sit as an Associate Judge in the place which Judge FORD now occupies. Governor WHITMAN need have no difficulty in selecting an able and competent Republican Judge from that district. Among those whose names have been mentioned for this appointment are Judge FREDERICK E. CRANE and Judge ABEL E. BLACKMAR. The designation of either would be creditable to the Governor and beneficial to the State.

"Too Much Johnson."

There are a hundred explanations, one as good as another.

Too Much Johnson is as good as any other, and perhaps better than all the others put together.

California decided it, and Too Much Johnson is what all the Republican party in California.

The Direct Vote for President.

The Evening Post explained on Saturday some circumstances which it deemed obstacles to the choice of a President and Vice-President of the United States by popular vote alone. Of these the first was that difficulties might arise from the differing qualifications of voters in the various States. Another was the delay that would be occasioned in determining the result; a third was the multiplication of chances for fraud.

To the first of these objections there can be only one answer, and that is this: Whatever the qualifications each State may choose to demand of voters for State offices, the qualifications of voters choosing the President should be identical throughout the length and breadth of the Union. And to bring about that uniformity of qualification the Constitution should be amended.

But, it will be said, this would be forcing woman suffrage on the States that have not adopted it. Not so, for the enfranchisement of the women in those States would extend only to the Federal elections. Each State would be free to restrict voters for other offices in any way it saw fit; no invasion of the self-government of the States is involved.

As for the delay in ascertaining the result of the election, it could hardly exceed the time required to find out this year's result; generally, of course, the verdict would be known much more quickly. The fear that opportunities for fraud would be enhanced is a hazardous pure and simple. The only real election crisis in American history was that of 1876, and it was a crisis occasioned wholly by the existence of the machinery of Presidential electors.

Whatever force may be conceded to the arguments raised by the Evening Post is more than offset by the facts of our history.

In 1876 SAMUEL J. TILDEN had 252,224 more votes than RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, yet HAYES became President by the vote of one elector.

In 1884 GROVER CLEVELAND carried New York by 1,140 votes. He had 210 electoral votes, 37 more than were given to JAMES G. BLAINE. Of the 37 all but one were cast by New York. That is to say, 1,140 voters polled 30 electoral votes. At that same election Maine went for BLAINE by 20,000; and Pennsylvania by 81,019. Maine cast six electoral votes and Pennsylvania thirty. Maine and Pennsylvania together gave BLAINE a plurality of 101,088 votes, carrying thirty-six electoral votes, the number cast for CLEVELAND by New York.

In other words, 1,140 votes in New York counted for just as much as 101,088 votes that were cast in Maine and Pennsylvania.

This is a sample of the inequity of our present system of choosing the head of the nation.

Governor Whitman's Judicial Appointments.

In the course of the next eight weeks Governor WHITMAN will be authorized to make four judicial appointments of the highest importance—three to the bench of the Court of Appeals and one to the bench of the Supreme Court in the Eighth district, which comprises the counties of Erie, Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauque, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming.

There are now two vacancies in the Court of Appeals, one caused by the death of Judge WILLIAM E. WENNER of Rochester in May last and the other by the resignation of Judge SAMUEL SEABURY during the summer. The vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge WENNER will be filled on and after the first of January next by CUTHBERT W. FORD of Lockport, who was elected an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals at the recent general election. He is now a Justice of the Supreme Court, sitting in the Court of Appeals, however, under a designation from the Governor. Judge SEABURY's resignation came too late to permit the election of his successor this year; consequently the power of

appointment which has not yet been exercised is vested in the Governor. His appointee will hold office until the end of 1917, the successor of such appointee being elected at the general election in that year.

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Vocational and Cultural Education.

The Federal Bureau of Education in its report upon the Wisconsin training schools for teachers in rural schools makes an interesting contribution to the present widespread discussion upon vocational and cultural education.

This issue has caused a division among the more progressive of American educators, between the defenders of a specialized education and those who insist that without a fundamental early training the best citizenship and the highest success, even in practical pursuits, cannot be realized. An extreme exponent of the first doctrine is DR. ABRAHAM FLEXNER, and a less radical one DR. CHARLES W. ELIOT, who gave an early recognition to specialism by his preference for elective studies at Harvard. The opposite side is championed by DR. ALFRED E. STEARNS in the current number of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

The report on the Wisconsin schools is enlightening because it gives practical results. The students have no training in the classical languages or higher mathematics, even algebra having been dropped that more time might be given to special work. And no classical education is necessary for entrance to the schools. There is no uniform course of study, but most of the time is given "to subjects taught in the common schools."

The principal object is so to specialize as to meet the demands of rural communities. Twenty weeks is given to the study of agriculture, nature study is emphasized, domestic science and manual training, rural sociology and rural economics are taught. The students are taught sewing by making clothes, corn and milk values by testing samples submitted, the geography of a country by a study of its products and resources.

Here are vocational schools, with the purely cultural element eliminated, not for the student alone, but for the teacher, who will train the youths of the community he enters. The result of the system is shown in the report upon the work of graduates:

"She was imbued with the spirit of community service."

"She was no common teacher, but was a real spirit of progress in the com-

munity. She really revolutionized the attitude of the people in the district."

"Here, somewhere in the backwoods, she went to work. She organized the women and girls into a sewing circle. She secured a Babcock milk tester and got all her pupils and many of the farmers interested in the testing of milk. She interested the farmers in tested seed corn, so that every farmer in her district planted tested seeds."

From these statements it would appear that a vocational education might develop worthy members of the community, and a high order of citizenship. But, on the other hand, the disadvantages of the lack of a fundamental early training, a lack that must hinder the progress of the graduates and reduce their capabilities for the best service, is shown in reports of the county superintendents:

"Some of them are weak academically."

"There is a lack of scholarship on the part of those who are not high school graduates."

"The weaknesses are lack of maturity, confidence, and in many cases of academic qualification."

"There is a lack of academic preparation before entering training school."

While the report deals almost entirely with the vocation of the farmer and with rural communities, the results indicated do not necessarily have restricted application. The same results have been found in other specialized schools and seem to bear out the contention of a great many able educators of this country that vocational education in itself is not sufficient, and that it should not be the dominant principle of the American educational system.

The Man Who Made the Martians Live.

Those strange shapes and highly trained intelligences that pass for Martians among the followers of our most respectable imitative fiction makers owe their popular acceptance largely to DR. LOWELL, who died yesterday at his Flagstaff astronomical observatory. He is not responsible for the distortions to which the human form has been subjected by writers and artists; but he gave body and strength to SCHIAPARELLI's suggestion of a canal system, and his researches have stimulated the natural interest all men, learned and ignorant alike, must feel in our red neighbor.

Professor LOWELL did not make of astronomy a dry compilation of incomprehensible statistics. He saw beyond the difficult computations that repel the uninitiate, and clothed the fruits of his researches in terms that made them seem understandable, even though it is to be doubted whether some of his lay readers actually took in the messages he sought to convey. His was the theory that the Martian canals and lakes constituted a vast irrigation system, an evidence at once of failing productivity on the planet, and of its inhabitants' wonderful culture. To him we owe a race of supreme attainments, grimly fighting for the extension of their existence a battle predetermined against them.

Visitors from Mars, personally escorted on earth by men with a mission, invariably travelled under the patronage of LOWELL from the moment of their arrival. Their intellectual superiority was firmly established by their consistent agreement with the beliefs of their conductors; with these star watchers in Arizona must not be charged.

The first airship, cannon ball, or passenger carrying bomb that starts from Earth to Mars should be named the PERCIVAL LOWELL and its hailing port should be Flagstaff.

Vegetables.

Small wonder the vegetables, and not the flowers, are the showcase of all eyes at the flower shows; rightly are the carrots, the turnips, the onions and others mounted in deeply shimmering folds of black velvet. Chrysanthemums may be fairly expensive, but beans at or about 30 cents a quart are like rare gems in the view of the Keeper of the Privy Purse.

Along in September a man brought some newly dug potatoes at \$1 a bushel, not without mild comments on the cost over 1915. Two weeks later he sought to get some for his brother. He had to pay \$1.50 a bushel. Now he is given to understand by the farmers that they have no more "to sell," they add, saving such traces of the New England custom as they have inherited. The subterranean caves of these farmers' dwellings are brimming with potatoes for which \$2 or \$2.50 a bushel will be asked in February or March.

The man we have mentioned will not pay it, but somebody will.

Beggared Belgium.

It is the contention of the German authorities in Belgium that the measures they have taken to compel the labor of the inhabitants of that country are not merely justified by the necessities of the situation, but are actually essential to the continued well being of the Belgians themselves. In other words, they hold that their admittedly rudimentary steps will prevent the Belgians from becoming hopelessly demoralized and utterly dependent at the conclusion of peace, owing to the habits formed during the war. The *Koelnische Volkszeitung* declares that the deportations now in progress are the result of "humanitarianism" which "would justify even the use of coercion," and are designed to prevent the ruin of thousands of able-bodied workers "who remain deliberately unemployed and spend their time unprofitably in cafes."

Before the rights and wrongs of the policy of forced labor are decided we must await further particulars of the manner in which it is carried out, the

work at which those whom it affects are employed and the terms on which they are held. But it is worth while pointing out that the Dutch have complained because of the refusal of Belgian refugees in Holland to work, and to remember that no community, large or small, can practise idleness for a long period of time without suffering disastrous consequences. The custom of idleness once abandoned is difficult to resume; on a small scale a comparison may be made with the pauperization of applicants for public aid in emergencies, among whom are always, and in every country, many who will not try to help themselves as long as they can lean on others. Belgium is in a situation in which the possibilities for retrogression of this kind are unlimited. To its people refusal to work may seem a high patriotic duty; in such circumstances the future of the whole population may be menaced by the melancholy and abnormal condition in which it is temporarily placed.

The immediate results of war, the wastage of its human and material victims, shocks the understanding and arouses the imagination; its more lasting and not less terrible consequences, to which our eyes are blinded by the overwhelming nature of the spectacle unfolded before us, may be glimpsed in such happenings as those which have brought the Belgian population and the German administration of their country once more to a grave crisis.

Telephoning in Distress.

With an abiding faith in the intelligence, imagination and willingness of Central, we have always believed that the single words "Fire!" or "Police!" spoken into the transmitter of a telephone after "Number, please!" is heard would bring adequate results to the subscriber. And now the telephone company informs its public that in emergencies it values the formula by which the operator exacts a number from the patron. The method is a bit more complicated than the cry of the single word, but it is so simple that it should be productive of benefit in the moment of distress.

When a fire starts it is not necessary to take up the fat book and paw it nervously until you find that the number of the alarm headquarters is Plaza 640. Say to the operator "I want to report a fire" and she will hook you up with the laddies. If the flames are running across the room at you, add your address, return the receiver to the hook, and flee.

If it be a burglar that imperils, "I want a policeman" does the work, and it may be better to add "Jones, 990 West Ninety-ninth," for then you will have time to turn upon the intruder the automatic pistol with which, according to certain advertisements, every well kept home is equipped. Don't jiggle the book, as that would betray your nervousness to the burglar. Policemen should never be summoned by telephone for the purpose of securing little WILLIE, who has misbehaved. It is a canon of the department that the blue uniform must not be employed in the intimidation of the young, and it would be humiliating for Central to become an accessory to an act that is frowned on by MME. MONTESSORI as well as Mr. Woods.

Persons who summon the police, the firemen or an ambulance without serious cause must beware the fate of the boys who uttered false alarms concerning a bear.

If prosperity is estimated by the purchasing power of a dollar, there are very hard times.

If CARRANZA, VILLA, ZAPATA and others have their way we shall have no returns from Mexico.

The German newspapers speak of the deportation of Belgian men into slavery in Germany as "a humanitarian measure." They have already moved to their own satisfaction that Frickhufelsen is an ally of the higher civilization.

CHARNICK M. DEWEY will deliver the anniversary address at the New York Academy of Medicine 12 West Forty-third street, next Thursday evening at 8:45 o'clock. Mr. DEWEY's subject will be "The Art of Growing Older."—*Yesterday's newspapers.*

What does CHARNICK DEWEY know about growing old?

Is the fact that the Carranzistas take the side with them when they go to war a suffrage or an anti-suffrage argument?

Stogies smaller; price to be raised—*Newspaper headline.*

The high cost of strong smokes.

Thru the news we learn that the Colorado Teachers Association has adopted the Twelve Words recommended through the program of the thoroughly approved the program of the simplified speller. Hereafter, when composing a prolog, a catalog or a decalog the pedagog, altho tho, will stick to the twelve even tho those of the thorofores reject the reform.

Colonel ROOSEVELT says that he is not indulging in pipe dreams. Is HIRSH JOHNSON?

Perhaps it is easier to be a minority President with a majority in the House than a majority President with a minority in the House.

VILLA seems to be growing more de facto every day.

Elect the President by Direct Vote!

From the *Patriot Press-Gazette*.

Perhaps some day the Electoral College will be abolished. We hope it will. The present apprehensions regarding the outcome of the final deliberations of that rather mysterious organization in the face of the fact that Mr. Wilson has been given a plurality of nearly a half million of the popular vote is the best kind of a reason favoring the reorganization of the Electoral College to oblivion.

A Long Felt Want.

We notice Mother Earth is always up to date. Her scientific works are greatly appreciated.

She cuddles not not pets, but keeps her whole self well. And when we raise the roof She simply lets us yell.

We think that we should have more chance of fun and mirth. A better, softer, gentler. Had we a little more earth.

McLAUGHLIN WILSON.

Jonah's Whale.

A German Student Song Tells the Woes of a Stranded Mariner.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: On the editorial page of November 12 you print a communication by "H. J. S." relating to the "Whale in the Water." In which "H. J. S." alludes to his own theory that the Whale may have been the name of an inn, from which Jonah was ejected after a three days sojourn.

The author of the old German student song, from which Robert Campbell, for many years one of Washington Post's best known and most expert plumbers and a man of the highest personal character. When long after the event I mentioned to him the cause of the sickness he expressed surprise at my knowledge of it, but he said, "I am sure that he was an apprentice at work in the kitchen at the time, and that he had, with his own hands, removed many of the drowned rats from the tank."

On another occasion a well known Confederate general told me that he was in Washington at the time, and being about to return to his home in Virginia was invited by a friend to have a "stopping over" at the hotel. This occurred in front of the hotel, the two repaired to his bar, where each took whiskey, the general taking his "straight," but his friend "taking water in his glass," as the saying runs. The result was that the general, who was the sickness and the general was the sickness and the general was the sickness.

HENRY E. DAVIS.
WASHINGTON, D. C., November 13.

Westward the Star of Empiricism Takes Its Way.

From the *Amateur Standard*.

New York's provincialism was brilliantly illustrated Tuesday night when at an early hour the New York newspapers, even those that have supported Mr. Hughes, flashed announcements that Hughes had been elected to the New York State legislature at the time that New York State had gone Republican, but they had nothing else to go on except a few indications pointing to Republican victory in Illinois. They reasoned that as goes New York so always and necessarily must go the country. It took New York several hours to wake up to the fact that it is possible for the United States to elect a President without her aid or consent. Such action by the rest of the country is downright impermissible.

The Statue on the Plaza Fountain.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: I sincerely regret the printing in your columns of a derogatory letter concerning the Plaza statue, the work of the late Karl Bitter. It was not a letter, but a working for fifteen years in a single sentence and it isn't completed yet.

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She cuddles not not pets, but keeps her whole self well. And when we raise the roof She simply lets us yell.

We think that we should have more chance of fun and mirth. A better, softer, gentler. Had we a little more earth.

McLAUGHLIN WILSON.

Mauch Chunk's Big Night.

From the *Mauch Chunk Times*.

All roads lead to the Mauch Chunk, the magnet being the great annual Halloween celebration by the people. Three bands will furnish the music. Think of it! Three bands! The air will be filled with such inspiring, merry, dancing music. It will inspire everybody. Make the old folk young. It will be a tonic, the new elixir of life. Shake the blues and take a dose of the live stuff.

A GUARDSMAN'S PROTEST.

Conditions of Border Service Are Hard on the Men and Their Families.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: I should like to convey some false impressions about the National Guard on the border prevailing in New York. In July the newspapers printed an item that the troops had been supplied with cots and board floors for their tents. As a matter of fact, our company and numerous other companies had neither beds nor cots. Our food is always on the march. The result was that numerous soldiers contracted rheumatism and other diseases. The New York papers have printed items from time to time about the health of the troops as evidenced by the absence of cases in the camp hospitals. Since September, however, no such false impression has been spread. The result was that the sick troops in need of hospital care. A statement also appeared, ascribed to a staff officer, that the troops did not get hard tack instead of bread, had plenty of meat and were otherwise well fed. During the month of October our company had hard tack instead of bread at least once, and generally twice, every day. Meat has been served three times a week.

November 19 will complete five months of service by the National Guard. For these five months the privates will receive 47¢ a day for conditions prevailing in military camps. Many of the troops have contracted various diseases. In addition many have lost their salaries, their positions and other things of commercial value. For these losses they receive no compensation. The families of many men are suffering, not actually starving, but under the weight of the unjust hardships and privations. Is this just? In view of the above facts the men in the National Guard are entitled to know why the Administration keeps them on the border.

If the United States is in actual danger of invasion, the National Guard is needed on the border to defend it, then the men and the country should be told so. If the country is not in danger of invasion, then there is no need for a military guard on the border.

If police force is necessary, then the Administration should get police forces. Guardsmen enlisted for military duty, not to sit on the Mexican border while they lose their material possessions.

The following statistics of our company should be of interest: Total number of men in the company, 125; men who are married, 102; men who have lost positions, 85; men whose families are suffering privations, 55.

It may be assumed that these figures are a fair index of the state of affairs throughout the National Guard. Regarding the money appropriated by Congress for the relief of dependents the experience of the National Guard has been that the fund is so hedged about with restrictive regulations that the money is not available. It is a very unusual case that only a wife, or only a mother, or only minor children are dependent on the guardsman. But according to regulations no money is available only for these, and the fact that the dependent may have as much as \$2 a week income from some other source renders the dependents ineligible for support.

I have had five years' military experience. I have served four years in the New York National Guard, and have been in the grades of private, corporal and sergeant. I have been in the camps of the New York division from Los Banos to Pharr, including Mission and McAllen. My opportunities for observation have been good. I have tried to make statements without prejudice or unjust implication.

I write this to THE SUN in the hope that the prejudice due to campaign partisanship will be gone and that the facts may be appreciated at their value.

I ask any reader of this letter to imagine himself a poor, uneducated man in khaki who has lost a position paying \$125 a month and five months' salary, and has received a letter from the War Department informing him that his dependents are not to receive support. There are thousands of young men who are in this position, and there are many thousands of their dear ones at home in actual privation.

HAROLD GRAHAM NORTHROP,
Company F, Twenty-second Engineers,
McALEEN, TEX., November 7.

THE SHIFT.

"Are you ready?" said the author to his wife, who was also his amanuensis. She was ready.

"Let's see," said the author, "Where was I at? We haven't worked on this story in more than a week."

"You were on the first chapter of 'Soaked in the Sun,'" replied the wife. You had written the opening scene description of the boundless plains and had begun the conversation between characters, thus:

"The man with the gray mustache laid his gun on the bar and poured out three fingers of whiskey with steady though scared hand."

"Stranger," said he, "you might as well understand now that out here in God's country money means nothing. We don't care for the West because it's beautiful or because we can raise wheat and steers and sell 'em to live on it and its kind. We don't want to borrow anything from the Government and our pocket is our savings bank. Out here you can't get a loan from a bank, even a commercial bank of the East, and—"

"Strike out that," said the author, "and we'll begin all over."

The man with the gray mustache laid his gun on the bar and poured out three fingers of whiskey with steady though scared hand. He laid his finger on the trigger. We don't want to borrow anything from the Government and our pocket is our savings bank. Out here you can't get a loan from a bank, even a commercial bank of the East, and—

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NATIONAL HOTEL DISEASE.

Its Cause, the Infection of Water.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: In ascribing the so-called "National Hotel disease" of the early part of the year 1915 to the bad sewerage of Washington at the time your correspondent Mr. Tomes repeats a long current explanation of the sickness bearing that name, and in so doing errs in good company.

In his admirable "History of the National Capital," Mr. W. B. Bryan says (Volume II, page 308), that, notwithstanding the fact that the National Hotel was built in 1857, shortly after the inauguration of James Buchanan, when the National Hotel sickness occurred. It was caused by poisonous gases from obstructed sewers and was confined in its extent to those in the building.

As authorities for his statement Mr. Bryan cites the *Evening Star* of this city of March 17 and 22, and July 16, 1857, and the statement, also often made by others, has not with general acceptance. In fact, the cause of this sickness was one of the best kept secrets of Washington, and so far as I know has never been published.

At the time Washington had no general water system, and reliance for that indispensable article was had upon the city's springs and wells. The National Hotel had a cistern, and the water, which was kept well supplied with water for both drinking and other purposes. In preparation for Mr. Buchanan's inauguration the house received a general overhauling and renovation, in the course of which rats in great numbers were discovered and exterminated. The poison was resorted to, to rid the house of the vermin, and the rats, which were very great many of them, were drowned of necessity infecting the water. Before discovery of this fact, however, the mischief was wrought, and many of the hotel's patrons were made gravely ill. With the removal of the rats, the sickness of course disappeared, but it was obviously against the hotel's interest to disclose the cause, and so the generally if unjustly condemned sewerage got the blame.

Among my authorities for this statement is the Hon. Robert Campbell, for many years one of Washington Post's best known and most expert plumbers and a man of the highest personal character. When long after the event I mentioned to him the cause of the sickness he expressed surprise at my knowledge of it, but he said, "I am sure that he was an apprentice at work in the kitchen at the time, and that he had, with his own hands, removed many of the drowned rats from the tank."

On another occasion a well known Confederate general told me that he was in Washington at the time, and being about to return to his home in Virginia was invited by a friend to have a "stopping over" at the hotel. This occurred in front of the hotel, the two repaired to his bar, where each took whiskey, the general taking his "straight," but his friend "taking water in his glass," as the saying runs. The result was that the general, who was the sickness and the general was the sickness.

HENRY E. DAVIS.
WASHINGTON, D. C., November 13.

Westward the Star of Empiricism Takes Its Way.

From the *Amateur Standard*.

New York's provincialism was brilliantly illustrated Tuesday night when at an early hour the New York newspapers, even those that have supported Mr. Hughes, flashed announcements that Hughes had been elected to the New York State legislature at the time that New York State had gone Republican, but they had nothing else to go on except a few indications pointing to Republican victory in Illinois. They reasoned that as goes New York so always and necessarily must go the country. It took New York several hours to wake up to the fact that it is possible for the United States to elect a President without her aid or consent. Such action by the rest of the country is downright impermissible.

The Statue on the Plaza Fountain.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: I sincerely regret the printing in your columns of a derogatory letter concerning the Plaza statue, the work of the late Karl Bitter. It was not a letter, but a working for fifteen years in a single sentence and it isn't completed yet.

A Long Felt Want.

We notice Mother Earth is always up to date. Her scientific works are greatly appreciated.

She cuddles not not pets, but keeps her whole self well. And when we raise the roof She simply lets us yell.

We think that we should have more chance of fun and mirth. A better, softer, gentler. Had we a little more earth.

McLAUGHLIN WILSON.

Mauch Chunk's Big Night.

From the *Mauch Chunk Times*.

All roads lead to the Mauch Chunk, the magnet being the great annual Halloween celebration by the people. Three bands will furnish the music. Think of it! Three bands! The air will be filled with such inspiring, merry, dancing music. It will inspire everybody. Make the old folk young. It will be a tonic, the new elixir of life. Shake the blues and take a dose of the live stuff.

IS THE AEROPLANE THE DEFENCE AGAINST THE SUBMARINE?

The Views of Some European Writers on the Most Puzzling of Naval Questions.

"It may be well," says a writer in the *National Review* of October, 1916, "that the true defence against the dangers under the water will be found not on but over the water." This is an entirely sincere and accurate opinion cast in the form of popular journalism of one of the most complex of modern problems ever faced by strategic problems ever faced by modern civilization. The simple truth conveyed in a single sentence illustrates an immense number of military and naval facts where the most exhaustive and scientific demonstrations would fail. The opinion comes from a layman, but as the authoritative work of Laubeuf reminds us, it is equally shared by specialists and experts. Thus, he writes in his most recent book, "Sous-marins et Submersibles": "The aeroplane is the sole weapon of war that can hunt out the submarine and discover its position." And in his still later and altogether convincing essay on the dirigible, "L'Impiego del Dirigibile," in the *Rivista Marina* of May, 1916, Rosini of the Italian navy says: "The Zeppelins constitute the most dangerous danger to the English and Russian navies." Here are briefly the reasons why the Germans have a special sort of pride in two particular weapons of war, the submarine and the Zeppelin. As Rosini points out, Germany has in practice specialized in the use of underwater and air craft, and is justly regarded by nautical nations as essentially an underwater and air power. He adds that the Allies, and especially the officers of the "grand fleet," know this by painful experience. They have found out that the airship is the best means of discovering a submarine, and that the submarine is the best means of discovering a dirigible. These dirigibles known as "air scouts" and "coast patrol." But in the use of dirigibles it must be confessed that the Allies have so far had no very brilliant results. They have, in fact, suffered grave losses. On the other hand, Germany has raised against thirty times, Paris, Tientsin, France, Russia and Salonica, and has lost at most three Zeppelins. The reason is that the Allies possess no airships that can make ninety to ninety-five kilometers an hour, which is the speed maintained by Zeppelins. The latest types, accordingly, are not fast enough to keep up with the Zeppelins. Submergence is thus a quality of defence, but it may be purchased at too high a price. The shape and strength of hull that is required by meeting the conditions of submergence present difficulties that introduce corresponding weaknesses in the surface vessel. This super-submarine is a compromise. Such a submarine would be a little less than 400 feet long by 35 feet beam and depth. At a depth at which submergence is practically possible such a vessel would make a very wide surface disturbance, not way making as much as 500 tons over the surface trace visible from a long distance. In the case of a modern torpedo, none of these disturbances of surface, as they are technically called, reveal the submarine's weakness; they indicate its presence easily to the aeroplane. With greater difficulty but still enough to be easily detected, the surface vessel is forced to remain on the surface. Submergence is thus a quality of defence, but it may be purchased at too high a price. The shape and strength of hull that is required by meeting the conditions of submergence present difficulties that introduce corresponding weaknesses in the surface vessel. This super-submarine is a compromise. Such a submarine would be a little less than 400 feet long by 35 feet beam and depth. 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